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11 December 1963

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director for Special Activities
Deputy Assistant Director for Special Activities**

**SUBJECT : Summary of OSA Activities for Week Ending
7 December 1963**

1. OX CART PROGRAMS:

25X1 a. R-12 Aircraft Production Rate. The Air Force R-12 System Project Office (SPO) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, advised NRO Program B Director that the production rate for the add-on twenty-five aircraft covered by the R-12 Program would be set at one aircraft per month with delivery beginning in May, 1965. The SPO requested that Lockheed be notified of this delivery date. The R-12 (Project [redacted] is the Air Force reconnaissance variation of the OXCART vehicle.

b. OX CART Flights over Mach 3. Flights at a speed greater than Mach 3 are continuing to be realized with no unusual problems encountered. The flight of aircraft #121 this past week obtained a maximum speed of Mach 3.22.

c. Depot Support for the OXCART Program.

25X1 (1) On 1 January 1964, the Air Force Logistics Command will assume full responsibility for the logistical support of the OXCART, REDLOCK, [redacted] and TAGBOARD Programs. The depot is located at [redacted] California, and will operate in the same manner that support from Warner-Robbins Air Force Base, Georgia, has operated during the U-2 Program. The Mission Directive, Air Force Logistics Command Support Responsibilities, and the Logistics Plan for the operation

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of the [] have been developed, reviewed, and approved by OSA and Air Force representatives. Such a production will enable considerable savings to be realized over that involving special depots for support of separate Air Force and Agency programs.

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(2) A nucleus of Agency people will be assigned at [] to control depot security, to provide an immediate contact for Headquarters [] to assist in expediting actions through the depot and to man Agency-controlled communications facilities.

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b. Satellites.

(1) The payload on the CORONA/MURAL Mission 9061 was not recovered. Indications are that the capsule separated upon command, but remained in orbit. The search recovery track was extended to the equator using two aircraft; the space track was extended and the search for the GE beacon was extended also. Hope of recovery of the capsule was abandoned and the search halted this weekend.

(2) The capsule contained a "destruct device" which ejects the ablative shell and recovery parachute if normal re-entry does not occur within 35 minutes after the separation. It is unknown whether or not this device operated properly.

c. IDEALIST Operations. The staging detachment at Ramey Air Force Base is now in place and operating. [redacted] is still not operational because of aircraft maintenance provisions. The estimated time to be in commission is 15 December 1963.

d. OSA Contracting. The NRO Executive Officer and NRO Comptroller met with OSA representatives on 6 December to discuss contracting techniques, procedures, and records as applied to specific commitments, obligations, and purchases. OSA techniques relative to ASPR were also covered.

[redacted]
Chief, Programs Staff
(Special Activities)

PS/OSA/[redacted] sk:4526 (11 Dec 63)

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